

REMARKS

Claims 6-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 6 is amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,409,479 to Sprague et al. ("Sprague"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sprague does not disclose, teach or suggest "a state detection system ... for optically detecting an assembled state of said sensor and said scale," as recited in claim 6 from which claims 7-13 directly or indirectly depend.

Sprague discloses an optical mouse for use with a computer having a display screen to enable movement of a cursor from one position on the display screen to another position on the display screen by moving the optical mouse over a planar grid pattern (mouse pad). More specifically, the optical cursor control device 10 (optical mouse) has a light source 12 and a light detector (transducers 14 and 16). The light source 12 and the light detector detect the movement of the optical mouse against a mouse pad to move the cursor on the screen. However, Sprague does not disclose, teach or suggest "a state detection system ... for optically detecting an assembled state of said sensor and said scale." The light source 12 and the transducers 14 and 16 (light detectors) do not optically detect an assembled state of a sensor and a scale.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 6 is distinguishable over the applied art. The remainder of the claims that depend from independent claim 6 are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as the for the additional features they recite.

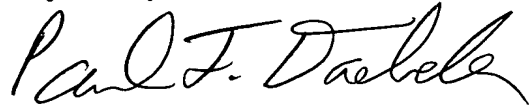
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II. Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 6-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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